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## REASON AND REVELATION.

"THE mind of man is as a mirror or glass, capable of the image of the universal world, and as joyful to receive the impressions thereof as the eye rejoices to receive the light; and not only delighted in the beholding the vanity of things and the vicissitudes of times, but raised also to discover the inviolable laws and the infallible decrees of nature; but if any man shall think by view and inquiry into sensible and material things, to attain that light whereby he may reveal unto himself the nature and will of God, then is he spoiled through vain philosophy: for the sense of man is as the sun, which opens and reveals the terrestrial bodies, but conceals and obscures the stars and bodies celestial." Such are the words of Bacon; and in the compass of these few words a great truth, too often neglected in the pride of human knowledge, is laid down and illustrated with a clearness and conciseness peculiarly his own.

"If any man shall think by view and inquiry into sensible and material things to attain that light whereby he may reveal unto himself the nature and will of God, then is he spoiled through vain philosophy." Yet to this end books have been written and treatises compiled, and thus systems of natural theology are too often more regarded than the oracles of revealed religion. In the ardent pursuit of knowledge, the mind of man is too apt to be elated by the consciousness of its increasing power, and in the upliftings of a proud spirit, professes to discover, ay, to prove, with mathematical precision, both the "nature and will of God," basing the argument upon proofs drawn from his own scanty knowledge of the works of the Creator. He sets up an idol, a phantom of his brain, an unreal god, for the God whose revelations are the only sure foundations of religion, and, we may add, even of history, and science.

That this earth teems with proofs of the exceeding wisdom, almighty power, and great goodness of the Creator, is known to none so well as to those who seek to know Him in his works. But it will be difficult for the inquirer who, throwing revelation aside, finds manifest proofs of the wisdom and power of a Creator, to prove the supreme *goodness* of his idol. Let him turn, and wind, and twist his arguments through all the mazes of logical sophistry, one fact, the existence of evil, cannot be denied, and cannot be accounted for by human reason. The consequence is, that he who takes his ground upon a natural religion or theology, must in the end be compelled to admit that the world is not *necessarily* the work of a beneficent Being. Not a creature in earth, sea, or air which is not subjected to pain and suffering: the very insects, the animalculæ invisible to our eyes, wage an eternal warfare. The answer of the reasoner is, that this is only another proof of Infinite Wisdom, since a superabundance is thus prevented. Granted, in its fullest extent; but until it can be proved that the existence of this superabundance was necessary, that the Almighty Power could not have adopted other means than the infliction of pain and suffering—of evil,—upon the creatures of his creation, to prevent a superabundance, the reasoner must admit that he fails in proving his idol to be a beneficent creator.

But let him humble his reason before revelation. Let him turn to the Bible, and there learn of the fall of man, and that the earth, which had been so exceeding good, was cursed for man's sake; that thorns and briars sprang up; that, in short, evil was the consequence of man's transgression. Let him place his faith in the promise of salvation, and see that promise fulfilled in the coming of Jesus,

and the mist will fall from his eyes, and he will then find in all the works of nature proofs of the *goodness* of God. His researches, no longer prosecuted from vain curiosity and profitless speculations concerning the intentions of God, will be pursued with yet greater eagerness, that he may fulfil his commands, and use and multiply the talent entrusted to his care.

We have advocated, and still advocate strongly, the opinion that the human race is advancing, not only in the acquisition of knowledge, but in mental improvement; but we do not mean to assert that this is a necessary consequence of man's organisation. We view in the fact, which we believe is fully borne out by the evidence of the history of the past compared with the present situation and prospects of mankind, the working of God's providence. It is not for man to say such *must* be the result. That is in God's hand. He who stood on the Acropolis at Athens, in the days of Pericles, must have looked proudly round upon the magnificent piles which it had required but a few years for that learned, polite, and cultivated people to erect. "This is a progressive age," he must have cried; "the spirit that is kindled in Athens will bear forward the mind of man until he challenges the power of the gods." But what must have been the thoughts of the melancholy Alexandrine when he beheld the imperial library, the storehouse of the arts, sciences, and eloquence of the past, kindled in the furnace to warm the baths of Omar? Surely his cry was, "The world is retrograde, and learning and literature have departed for ever!" Both were mistaken, for Athens in her proudest days was tottering to her fall, and we owe the restoration of science to the sages of Arabia. We feel that although the flow has hitherto been onward, it has been by the influence, not of man but of God. In looking back upon the page of history, we see single men start up at intervals, and by their actions totally change the aspect of the world. Are they to be regarded as necessary in the fixed course of human economy? Can we calculate the appearance of such spirits at stated periods, or under given circumstances, as we do the appearance of a comet or an eclipse? They are then proofs of the immediate providence of an all-watchful God; nor is the least of his creatures less the object of his special care. If man were in his own nature a progressive creature, it would follow that we should find progression steady; but at various periods in the history of the world human intellect appears to have slumbered, and in that dangerous sleep fallen back to the point from which it started; then, again aroused, it pressed forward with renewed energy. Can we see aught in this but the immediate presence of God?

These are mysteries inscrutable to us, and so decreed by God to remain during this mundane existence. Admit them, and the soul, lightened from its heavy burden of doubt and despondency, goes gloriously on in her appointed way. Searching on every side for proofs of the power and wisdom of God, she now can clearly distinguish in each the sure tokens of his great goodness. But deny the truth of revelation, and the soul, searching to penetrate unfathomable depths of darkness with the weak light of mere human intellect, is lost, dazzled, and bewildered. She cannot deny that there is a God, and yet shrinks from the power she is compelled to acknowledge.

To such let us recommend the consideration of a little apologue illustrated by an old master (Garofolo), in an excellent picture, now hanging in the National Gallery. St. Augustin, sitting one day by the sea shore, busily occupied in the composition of his

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treatise of "the Trinity," saw a young child taking water with a ladle from the sea, and pouring it into a small hole in the sand. Surprised at so strange an occupation, he questioned the boy, who replied he was emptying the sea into that hole. "It is impossible," said the Saint. "If you find this impossible," rejoined the child, "how much more so is it for you to elucidate that which God chooses to keep a mystery?" The child disappeared in a glory, and the Saint recognised in him the young Saviour.

The hole in the sand is the human intellect. It can comprehend but a little portion of the exceeding greatness of God.

#### CONNAUGHT SMUGGLERS.

THE following stories are taken from a recent publication, "A Tour in Connaught," by the Rev. Mr. Otway,—a gentleman who has done as much as any modern writer to bring his native country under observation. With a fine eye for scenery, a keen perception and enjoyment of the ludicrous, a passionate love of the strange legends and droll stories of his countrymen, joined to a hearty, benevolent, thoughtful spirit, he has rambled over the face of the country, and produced, from time to time, a series of rich, racy, piquant "Sketches of Ireland," which none but such an Irishman could write. He is, to be sure, somewhat of a party man—all Irishmen are party men, and how could a clergyman of the Established Church avoid exhibiting *esprit de corps*?—still he does not intrude his opinions very offensively, and they are speedily forgotten in the enjoyment of his singular, rough, racy, odd, droll, and eloquent descriptions. We shall, on one or two occasions, make extracts from his "Sketches;" and to such of our readers as can afford it, we recommend a perusal of his newly-published "Tour in Connaught."

"About the commencement of the present century, the Connaught secondary gentry, who seldom thought of going to Dublin, used, besides rigging themselves out at Ballinasloe fair, to have their common and occasional wants in the way of raiment, jewellery, and spicery, supplied by pedlars, who went about the country with large and strong chests stowed on carts, and which contained often valuable assortments of goods of all kinds. These persons were of such respectability, that some of them dined at the tables of the gentry, and giving, as they generally did, credit, they were very acceptable, and were treated with all possible consideration. In fact, there was a considerable smuggling trade carried on along the whole western coast; and, in return for our Irish wool, the French silks and jewellery, and the Flanders laces, came in without the intervention of a custom-house. In promoting this traffic, many of the western proprietors were concerned, and it is said that families who wear coronets became right wealthy by the export of wool and the import of claret and French fabrics. Be this as it may, the itinerant pedlars I have just alluded to were the convenient factors of this contrabandism, and their good offices were, on all hands, acknowledged. Of these, Mrs. Bridget Bodkin was not the least active, accommodating, or ingenious: she assumed to spring from one of the tribes of Galway, and though the gentry of the west looked down on regular traders and shopkeepers, yet Biddy Bod, as she was called, was considered as honourable and admissible; for she was very useful, and many a wedding, as well as wedding gear, was the result of her providence. But to my story:—A large fleet of East Indianmen, unable to beat up channel, from long-continued north-easterly winds, was obliged to put into Galway bay for water and provisions, and there these huge merchantmen lay at anchor, freighted not only, as at present, with tea and indigo, but with those delicate muslins which Manchester had not yet learned to imitate. Now, it was known to Bid Bod that each officer and sailor might have a supply of such valuable goods as a private venture, and, to make her own market, she went on board. Expert as she was in smuggling, she knew how and where about her own ample person to stow away soft goods; for she (mind you, fair reader,) was not strait-laced, as you may be;—she, by nature large, still did not care to tighten herself up as if she would be a wasp;—no, on the contrary, the poor thing became quite dropsical—the swelling of her legs and body was sometimes awful. What medicine she used to get

down the enlargement, whether belladonna or digitalis, is not recorded; but she *did* now and then keep down her dropsical distensions, and, during the low state of her intermittent, 'became small by degrees, and beautifully less.' But, on her return from the India fleet, Bid Bod had a full fit of dropsy; her body was like a rhinoceros's—her legs like those of the largest elephant of the King of Siam: she might have got the elephantiasis, from being for a time so near, while on board the fleet, the elephant which the Nabob of Arcot was sending as a present to Queen Charlotte; and so she landed, in all her *amplitude*, west of Claddah, and there she (as I may say) tapped herself; for she unrolled all the gold and silver muslin, the wonders of the India loom; Cashmere shawls, that a lady might cover herself with from head to foot, and yet they would pass easily through her wedding ring;—these she stuffed into the hollow of an immense pillion on which she rode.

"Well, now suppose you see Bid with her padded pillion fastened on her large black buttoned-tailed mare, and she, by help of a convenient granite-stone, is mounted; and her man Luke is before her, and she has her arm *confidingly* placed around said Luke's waist, and they are jogging on slow-paced and sure. They have got clear of the town of Galway,—the custom-house, the dreaded custom-house, is far behind, and she is entering on the interior,—the road to Athenry before her, and all seems safe. How she chuckles in her large and inmost soul over the success of her venture!—when, all of a sudden, at the turning of the road, out bounded a smart, dapper, active-eyed, but rather diminutive man, and caught hold of the rein of her bridle. 'Madam,' said he, 'you must excuse me for stopping you, while I have every desire to be civil to a lady; yet having received information I can depend on, that you have just landed from the East India fleet with a quantity of run goods about you, you must submit to be searched; which I must now proceed to do, in the most accurate manner consistent with my respect for your sex and quality.'

"Bid was at this accost, no doubt, surprised and distressed, but in no way thrown off her centre, and, without any hesitation, she replied—

"Sir, many thanks to you for your civility: I am quite aware you are but acting according to information, and doing what you consider your duty;—and, sir, in order to show how much you are mistaken, I shall at once alight; but I am sure, sir, a gentleman like you will help a poor, infirm woman, labouring under my sad complaint, to alight with ease. The mare—bad manners to her—is skittish, and it requires all my servant's hands to hold her.—Luke, avick! this gentleman insists on taking me down;—hold hard the beast while I am alighting—I'll do my endeavours to get off—there, sir—so, Button,' (speaking to her horse.) 'Now, hold up your arms, sir, and I will gently drop;—yes, that will do: and with that down she plopped herself into the little dapper exciseman's arms.

"A summer-tent, pitched on a Swiss meadow, might as well bear up against the down-tumbling avalanche, as this spare man could the mountain of flesh that came over him; so down he went sprawling, as Bid Bod intended he should do, and she uppermost, moaning and heaving over him,—and there they lay, when, with stentorian voice, Bet cried out to her boy Luke—

"Luke, honey, ride off; never mind me; the gentleman, I'm sure, will help me up when he can! Skelp away, ma boughal.'

"In the meanwhile, the exciseman lay groaning, and Bet moaning. I shall not attempt to describe the remainder of this scene: I leave it to the imagination to suppose that the smuggler kept her position just so long as she thought it gave time enough for her property being carried far and away from the hands of the overwhelmed gauger."

The following is another story of a Connemara smuggler.

"A man who was known to have a large mountain-farm and extensive homestead in these hills, was observed very frequently to ride into the town of B——; and he never made his appearance without a woman, supposed to be his wife, jogging steadily and uprightly on a pillion behind him. He was tall and gaunt in look—*sure* large and rotund, and encumbered (as is the mode of all country wives) with a multitude of petticoats; they always rode into the yard of a man who kept a public-house, and, before they alighted off their horse, the gate was carefully shut. It was known, moreover, that this publican acted as factor for this farmer in the sale of his butter; and so for a length of time things went on in a quiet and easy way, until one day it so happened (as indeed it is

very common for idlers, in a very idle country-town, to stand making remarks on the people as they come by,) that the gauger, the innkeeper, and a squireen, were lounging away their day, when the farmer slowly paced by, with his everlasting wife behind him. 'Well,' says the squireen, 'of all the women I ever saw bumping on a pillion, that lump of a woman sits the awkwardest; she don't sit like a *nathural-born crathur* at all; and do you see how modest she is?—what with her flapped-down beaver hat, and all the frills and fallals about her, not an inch of her sweet face is to be seen, no more than an owl from out the ivy. I have a great mind to run up alongside of her, and give her a pinch in the toe, to make old Buckram look about her for once.' 'Oh, let her alone,' says the innkeeper; 'they're a decent couple from Joyce country. I'll be bound, what makes her sit so stiff is all the eggs she is bringin' in to Mrs. O'Mealey, who factors the butter for them.' There was, while he said this, a cunning leer about the innkeeper's mouth, as much as to denote that there was, to his knowledge, however he came by it, something mysterious about this said couple. This was not lost on the subtle gauger, and he thought it no harm just to try more about the matter, and so he says, in a frolicsome way, 'Why, then, for curiosity sake, I will just run up to them, and give the mistress a pinch—somewhere—she won't notice me at all in the crowd—and maybe then she'll look up, and we'll see her own purty face.' Accordingly, no sooner said than done; he ran over to where the farmer was getting on slowly through the market-crowd, and, on the side of the pillion to which the woman's back was turned, attempted to give a sly pinch, but he might as well have pinched a pitcher; nor did the woman even lift up her head, or ask 'who is it that's hurting me?' This emboldened him to give another knock with his knuckles; and this assault he found not opposed, as it should be, by petticoats and *flesh*, but by what he felt to be petticoats and *metal*. 'This is queer!' thought the gauger. He now was more bold, and with the butt-end of his walking-stick he hit what was so hard a bang, which sounded as if he had struck a tin pot. 'Stop here, honest man,' cried the gauger. 'Let my wife alone, will you, before the people,' cried the farmer. 'Not till I see what this honest woman is made of,' roared the gauger. So he pulled, and the farmer dug his heels into his colt to get on, but all would not do;—in the struggle down came the wife into the street, and as she fell on the pavement the whole street rang with the squash, and in a moment there was a gurgling as from a burst barrel, and a strong-smelling water comes flowing all about; and flat poor Norah lies, there being an irruption of all her intestines, which flowed down the gutter as like potten whiskey as eggs are like eggs.

"The fact was, that our friend from the land of Joyce had got made, by some tinker, a tin vessel with head and body the shape of a woman, and dressed it out as a proper country dame. In this way he carried his *DARLINT* behind him, and made much of her."

We can hardly part from these smuggling stories without adding another, which, though not a *smuggler*, is yet an amusing exemplification of the power of the "strong hand."

"It is not at all uncommon to find rabbits burrowing in the ruined abbeys of Ireland, and the loose soil of the nave, choir, and transepts, hollow as it is with graves and vaults, forms a secure place for breeding and retreat. A dignified clergyman lately related to me a circumstance of rather striking nature, that he witnessed in a Munster abbey. He had entered unattended, on a fine summer's eve, the precincts of the venerable pile, and the declining sun, casting its long beams through the windows, arches, and apertures, was effecting all those beautiful contrasts of light and shade that harmonised so well with all that was around. Nothing was within the enclosure to interrupt the quiet and lounging scrutiny he was making amidst the tombs, save the caw of the daw from the belfry, or the hum of the beetle urging its drowsy flight through the ivied windows,—when, on a sudden, a few yards off, he heard an agonising squeal, as of a being in great pain; and then, looking in the direction of the choir, he saw a weasel mounted on the neck of a large rabbit, that was thus giving its death-note as the fierce animal was sucking out its life's blood; when, all of a sudden, and to his utter astonishment, he saw from under the tomb adjoining to which the struggle was going on, a bare human arm protruded, which with strong grasp seized the rabbit, and dragged it into the vault. What could this be—a ghost?—pshaw! A miraculous interposition?—what, for a rabbit! Take courage, oh my soul, and let us see. And it was soon explained; a mason who was repairing the interior of the vault, seeing the success of the hunting weasel, took a dirty advantage of the stout little vermin, and had the lion's share."

## THE BRITISH NAVY.

### NO. IX.—QUARTER-DECK OFFICERS.

"Hark to the boatswain's call, the cheering cry!  
While through the seaman's hands the tackle glides;  
Or school-boy midshipman, that standing by,  
Strains his shrill pipe as good or ill betides,  
And well the docile crew that skilful urchin guides,"  
"White is the glassy deck, without a stain,  
Where on the watch the staid lieutenant walks:  
Look on that part which sacred doth remain  
For the lone chieftain, who majestic stalks,  
Silent, and feared by all."—BYRON.

WHILST our ship is cruising, and the orderly regulations adopted as to diet and exercise are producing their effects upon the crew, training the men into good condition, ready for the performance of any service, however arduous, we shall describe more particularly the qualifications and duties of the officers of each grade.

The young aspirant for naval honours should commence his noviciate at a very early age, particularly in a season of peace, when promotion is necessarily slow. As he becomes eligible for advancement at nineteen years of age, and is required to serve six years at sea before he can pass his examination for lieutenant, the proper time for him to enter the profession is at the age of thirteen.

Parents who design a son for the navy, should, therefore, not only study the disposition of the lad—for it would be cruel to force him into so dangerous a service against his will—but take care that his preparatory education is directed to the most useful points. There are other things to be considered, as regards the choice of the naval profession, and we may serve our readers by giving them some information on this head.

In the first place, they should consider, that the navy is a profession in which emolument is seldom to be looked for. There are cases, to be sure, where large sums have been made by prize-money, but these are extremely rare, and speaking generally, perhaps there is no vocation that can be selected holding out so little inducement in point of profit.

For the first two years, the rating is usually "Volunteer of the first class," the pay being merely nominal, (in fact but £14 6s. per annum), and afterwards, the wages of a midshipman\* is very far from sufficient to enable the youth to maintain the station he must support. This being the case, captains, when receiving youngsters, stipulate that their friends shall make them an allowance of forty pounds per annum, over and above their pay, during the whole term of their noviciate, or "until they pass their two examinations, and obtain the rating of master's mate."

The first question is, therefore, to consider whether such an obligation can be conveniently incurred, in addition to the outfit, which costs fifty or sixty pounds? If it cannot, or indeed should the smallest doubt exist, it is better to decline entering on it; because it would be cruel to submit a high-spirited youth to the mortifications he must endure if his mess is not regularly paid, and he has not the means of maintaining a proper appearance.

The next consideration is the influence the friends may possess with men in power, to further the young man's advancement. Mere merit will ensure promotion to a lieutenant, after a while, to be sure, but it will probably be a long while; for he must, if wanting the assistance of influential friends, be content to wait his turn in this respect; his services and pretensions will be scanned in comparison with others in the same condition; and when he obtains his rank at last, it finds him broken-spirited, and probably disgusted with a profession where his service has been so poorly rewarded, and where he has witnessed the advancement of more fortunate messmates. These considerations should deter those who, although they may conveniently incur pecuniary sacrifice, cannot afterwards make interest in high quarters, from permitting a choice of a profession which holds out such slender prospects: for the time and talent, to say nothing of the money, necessary to reach the first step of his promotion in the navy, would serve to establish a young man in some lucrative vocation.

Supposing all these things considered, and the youngster devoted to the navy, his studies must be directed particularly to mathematics, French, and drawing, these being the essential branches wherein it is desirable he should be grounded. If brought up at a classical school, he will be able to continue his readings on board

\* We have detailed the pay of each rating in the third of these Navy articles, in No. X. of the Journal.



and be directed in his progress by the "naval instructor," who being a University graduate, is quite competent in this respect.

When we consider the various situations in which naval officers are placed, and the diplomatic duties those in command are often required to perform, it is most desirable that they should be as well educated and well informed as possible; and so that the boy is grounded in the rudiments, he may (now that competent instructors have been provided) be able to continue his labours for two years at least, during which he is not required to perform any duty that prevents his schooling, with nearly the same facility and advantage as if he had continued at school.

Application must be made to some captain in command of a ship, who is willing to receive the young aspirant, and this effected, he should be inducted as soon after the age of thirteen as possible. Any outfitter, or military and naval tailor, will inform the parents of the stock of articles usually required; and these should be adapted to the season, and the station the ship is designed for, and need not be abundant when the lad is growing. The young midshipman's uniform is very handsome, and the contemplation of strutting in cocked hat and dirk, has no doubt tempted many a boy to enter the navy, who has had abundant reason to curse his folly when he afterwards perceived his brothers and schoolfellows, of more humble aspirations, making fortunes in lucrative professions.

The whole of the young gentleman's clothes are contained in a chest proper for the occasion, and of specified dimensions, and he usually engages a marine to brush his clothes and shoes, and a seaman to carry his hammock up and down, scrub it, &c. &c. To the first of these he pays five shillings a month, and to the other two shillings.

For awhile, and until he has acquired some acquaintance with the strange sights he encounters on board, established his sea legs\*—and completely recovered from the effects of sea-sickness—little duty is exacted from him. He is kept at school morning and evening, and required to be on deck when taking altitudes of the sun or stars, also the sun's azimuth; and made practically acquainted with the mode of using and adjusting the instruments necessary for these purposes.

As he attains strength and confidence he is taught to knot and splice, to go aloft, to reef, hand, and steer, and gradually acquires the manual duties of a seaman. He is seldom required to keep watch at night for the first two years, but in the day when all hands are called, he is expected to appear, and also at divisions and quarters, at which latter his station is the quarter-deck, acting as aide-de-camp to the captain, and ready to carry his orders to the lieutenants in command on the decks below.

At the expiration of two years our youngster is generally rated midshipman, and thenceforth stationed in a watch, in a subdivision of the guns on one of the decks at quarters, and aloft at reefing or furling. His school instruction still goes forward, but he cannot attend to it as punctually as before. He is now supposed capable of keeping a ship's reckoning, and required to produce an account of the same, called his "day's work"—every day, as soon after noon as possible, setting forth the course and distance run during the last twenty-four hours, the latitude and longitude the ship is in, and the bearing by compass, and distance of the nearest land. His duty is to repeat the orders of the lieutenant, to see them carried into effect, and to visit the men on the looks-out and keep them alert. He paces the lee-side of the quarter-deck during his watch, and is always ready to answer the call of his superior. The lieutenant, if considerate, will generally send the youngest of the *mids* to bed before the end of a four hours' watch—for the sea air has a most somnolent effect, and youngsters are very apt to skulk away, and "caulk," that is, lie down in their clothes; and when found in this situation, their messmates have an effective, although somewhat violent mode of rousing, by sluicing them with a bucket of salt water, called "blowing the grampus."

As our midshipman grows in years and strength, he becomes mate of the watch, and then he has the duty of heaving the log and marking the ship's course, her rate of sailing, and the direction of the wind with chalk upon the log-board. He also arouses the lieutenant who is to relieve the watch—musters the men—and when all hands are called, acquaints the first lieutenant and the rest of the officers. He is required to keep a log or journal of the principal events, filling up a printed form, and this, as well as certificates from the captains he has served under, must be produced on the day of his examination for lieutenant. If, in addition to the events usually detailed in the log, he adds drawings of head-lands, and observations upon places visited tending to their description,

it tells in his favour: for the passing captains will probably report his proficiency to the Admiralty, and be willing to receive him in their own ships, should he so desire.

It sometimes happens that the midshipman is rated master's mate before he has served six years, this being at the option of the captain; but the regulations require that he shall serve six entire years at sea, two of which must be in the rating of master's mate or midshipman; and when he can produce certificates of this, and also that he has attained his nineteenth year, he may present himself before the three captains appointed to examine his qualifications. Formerly this was the only examination he underwent, and it embraced questions in seamanship and navigation also: at present he is interrogated as to his proficiency in navigation and astronomy, by a committee at the Naval College, Portsmouth, the captains confining their examination to the test of his ability to manage and command a ship in any situation that may occur; and for this purpose they put such questions as to them seem meet, and if they are satisfied, give the young gentleman a certificate to the effect that "he has passed."

This and the college examination over, he is considered competent to any duty that a seaman may be called on to perform; he is thenceforth always rated master's mate, and he is eligible for a lieutenant's commission as soon as he is lucky enough to obtain it.

It is very seldom that even those who have influential friends, acquire their promotion in less than two years after passing; and such being the rule generally acted on, it becomes the more necessary that the novice should commence so early. During the time that elapses between the passing and the promotion, our young officer is, however, acquiring as much experience as if his advancement had taken place. He is either a deck mate, a day mate, or a signal mate; the duty of the former being the care of the main, lower, and orlop deck and hold, and serving out the provisions; and of the latter, the care and disposition of the signal flags. He is moreover frequently required to do the duty of a lieutenant; to take charge of a watch should one of these be absent, or ill, or under arrest; and he has his subdivision of seamen to scrutinize, and his log to keep.

The step from master's mate to lieutenant is the greatest in the service. In the former rating he had no recognized rank, nor half-pay to support him when unemployed,\* and he could be discharged and turned adrift a burden upon his friends at the caprice of his captain; besides that he frequently experienced difficulty in obtaining a rating. The possession of a lieutenant's commission at once removes the whole of these troubles, gives him rank equivalent to that of a captain in the army,—a half-pay, which although scanty, is still sufficient for his support,—and he cannot be deprived of his commission, except by sentence of a court-martial for some proved offence.

But his duties are now more arduous and responsible. During his watch, the ship and all on board are entrusted to his sole charge, dependent for their safety upon his skill and promptitude to meet occasions continually occurring. He has command of a division of seamen, whose clothes and appointments it is his duty to inspect periodically. He attests the log-book, or that portion which relates to the occurrences of his watch; commands a portion of the ship's battery in battle; and has some special duty to perform at every evolution that requires the service of all hands.

It is part of the duty of the lieutenant of the watch to call the captain during the night, and report any change of weather, and also, should necessity arise for making alteration in the course of the ship, or the sail ordered to be carried during the night. This is a general order, and although highly inconvenient for the officer of the watch to leave the deck for an instant on this, or any other occasion, it is nevertheless generally exacted. There is an anecdote told of a captain (now an admiral) who was most particular in this respect. One night the lieutenant of the watch repaired to the cabin about eleven o'clock, aroused the captain, informing him that it looked dirty to windward, and that it was necessary to reef. "Very well, do so," replied he, "and call me if it blows harder." The gale came on, and the captain was frequently informed of its increase, as necessity arose for reducing sail, until at last the ship was brought under her storm stay-sails; when about four o'clock the lieutenant again repaired to the cabin to report a sail split. "Very well, Mr. Haulaway," replied the captain, "bend another sail, and call me if it blows harder."—"I imagine, sir," replied the lieutenant, "the gale is at its height; I never knew it blow so hard, and I do not think it *can* blow harder."—"Oh!" said the chief, turning himself in his cot, "call me when it moderates!"

\* A midshipman's half pay is facetiously estimated at three farthings per annum, and paid quarterly to puzzle the clerks.

\* To walk steadily, notwithstanding the oscillating motion of the ship.

Should the lieutenant on his first appointment find himself the junior officer, he is denominated "Boots"—a term given him, because he is called on to perform any chance duty that may be necessary, such as answering signals, &c., his principal business being to drill the seamen at small-arms, and to take care that the muskets, pistols, and cutlasses, are kept clean, and free from rust. If he has been instructed in the theory and practice of gunnery on board the Excellent at Portsmouth, he is called the gunnery lieutenant, and appointed to teach first the captains of guns, and then divisions of two or three crews of guns at a time, the established mode of performing the exercise, so as to produce an uniform manual; as he advances in seniority, he at last attains to be first lieutenant, or executive officer, through whom the captain's orders are carried into effect, and in whom, in fact, centres the whole routine of the ship's discipline. Whenever all hands are called, the first lieutenant takes command on the quarter-deck, and issues the orders, or "works the ship," as it is called. In action he supports the captain; if he falls, succeeds him; and to become what is considered a "smart" first lieutenant, the life and soul of the officer must be in his profession. The ship should absorb all his thoughts, and his mind be constantly employed with reference to perfecting the very many matters connected with that complicated machine. Upon his tact, temper, and disposition, very much of the comfort of the whole will depend; for he has many opportunities of obliging, as well as disobliging, punishing, and rewarding, and therefore every one on board is anxious to conciliate his good opinion.

After an officer has served several years as lieutenant, particularly in peace, when opportunities for distinguishing himself so rarely occur, he is seldom solicitous for employment afloat, unless he can obtain the post of first lieutenant. The half-pay being 5s. per diem, is very nearly as much as the full-pay, as reference to the scale already alluded to will show; and if he is married, but a small portion of his pay can be allotted to the support of his family. He is therefore naturally desirous to remain on shore, if he possesses no influential interest to further his promotion; and having already acquired a full knowledge of his profession, he prefers residing with his family, and appropriating his small income to their comfort, than actual service under circumstances which not only absorbs the greatest portion of his pay; but his commission itself is at stake should he unfortunately fall under the strict letter of the Articles of War.

It is by no means necessary that the lieutenant should have been in the situation of "first," before he is eligible for his next step; all required is, that he shall have served at sea in that rank two complete years. As our ship has no commander on board, we shall not dwell upon the duties of that officer, but dismiss him by merely observing, that when in a line-of-battle ship he performs the duties of a first lieutenant, and when in command of a sloop-of-war, he is in all respects the same as a captain. He ranks with a major in the army, sits on court-martials, and, in fact, associates whilst on shore, shares prize-money with, and is admitted into the society of captains (commonly called post-captains), although one step below them.

The captain of a seventy-four gun ship has generally held that rank (corresponding to a colonel in the army) for fifteen or twenty years, and probably commanded frigates and vessels of smaller rates in his course of service; but this is not a necessary condition of his appointment. He must serve in command of a rated ship three years in war, or six in peace, before he is eligible for promotion to his flag; and this is the reason why so much desire is manifested by officers for a ship, notwithstanding the pecuniary sacrifice it involves, in order to uphold the dignity of the station.

The multifarious duties that fall on the captain are such as to require first-rate ability for their proper performance. Although he seldom takes an active part in the executive duties of the ship, he is responsible for the service he is ordered upon being well or ill executed. It frequently happens that he has intricate diplomatic correspondence to conduct, and cases to meet, when he has no opportunity to consult authorities, and must act upon his individual judgment; and when we consider that he has small opportunity for qualifying himself in this respect—we mean in comparison with those who have the advantage of a university education—it is matter of astonishment that so little inconvenience has resulted from the conduct of naval officers. The admirals in command on the Mediterranean station, as well as in South America, at several very critical periods displayed a judgment and ability in conducting the most intricate correspondence to a successful issue, such as might excite the admiration and envy of the trained diplomatist.

Perhaps there is no individual in authority under the Crown intrusted with so much discretionary power as the captain of a vessel of war. Upon his own quarter-deck his will is supreme: no man dares to question it; and it is wonderful that, possessed of almost absolute power, so very few are found to abuse it.

During the war there were, we grieve to say, many commanders who exercised a severity, and sometimes a tyranny over their crews, that could only be justified by the quality of the materials they had to deal with. When a portion of their ships' companies were men of desperate character, whose punishment for crimes committed on shore was commuted for service at sea, it was necessary that a species of terror should be upheld as the only means of restraining their vicious propensities; and the frequent recurrence of corporal punishment blunted the feelings of officers, and probably occasioned greater severity than would otherwise have been the case. But as such characters are never received at present, and the infliction of flogging is also restrained under certain regulations, it is but seldom that severity is necessary. Nevertheless, an ill-disposed or ill-tempered captain may harass his men extremely with secondary punishments, besides depriving them of the usual indulgences; and all this without placing himself in a position to incur the displeasure of the authorities. Hence the necessity for every officer selected to command being of established reputation in the service, and the great responsibility which rests upon those who make the selection.

To detail the duties of the captain would be to describe the whole routine of the ship, for his authority extends over all, being responsible for every act performed. No stores or provisions can be procured or expended without his approval, and all the accounts are submitted to his inspection and attested by his signature. Over the officers, and more particularly the younger portion, he exercises a paternal authority, indorses their bills abroad, and often supplies their necessities. The sick he regards with particular attention, frequently appropriating the largest portion of his live stock—maintained on board, be it recollected, at great expense—to such cases as the surgeon reports to require better food than the ship's allowance; yet, with all this power and authority, his high rank considered, and the necessity which custom imposes upon him to maintain an establishment out of his pay equal to that for which, in every other navy, an allowance is made, the captain of a British ship of war is undoubtedly the worst paid servant under the Crown. In our next article we shall sketch the duties of the remaining officers.

#### SELF-GOVERNMENT.

MAN then is free; he has the power to seek happiness in his own way. He enters upon existence and sets forward in the path of life. But as he passes along, a thousand tempters beset him. Pleasure comes to beckon him away, offering him present flowers, and unfolding beautiful prospects in the distance. Wealth seeks to make him her votary, by disclosing her magic power over men and things. Ambition woos him with dreams of glory. Indolence essays to soften and seduce him to her influence. Love, envy, malice, revenge, jealousy, and other busy spirits, assail him with their various arts. And man is free to yield to these temptations, if he will; or he has the power to resist them, if he will. God has surrendered him to his own discretion, making him responsible, however, for the use and the abuse of the liberty bestowed upon him.

If a person mounts a high-spirited horse, it is important that he should be able to control him, otherwise he may be dashed in pieces. If an engineer undertakes to conduct a locomotive, it is necessary that he should be able to guide or check the panting engine at his pleasure, else his own life, and the lives of others, may be sacrificed. But it is still more indispensable that an individual, who is entrusted with the care of himself, should be able to govern himself.

This might seem a very easy task; but it is one of the most difficult that we are called upon to perform. History shows us that some of the greatest men have failed in it. Alexander could conquer the legions of Persia, but he could not conquer his passions. Caesar triumphed in a hundred battles, but he fell a victim to the desire of being a king. Bonaparte vanquished nearly the whole of Europe, but he could not vanquish his own ambition. And in humbler life, nearer home, in our own every-day affairs, most of us are often drawn aside from the path of duty and discretion, because we cannot resist some temptation or overcome some prejudice.—*Fireside Education.*

## AN INCIDENT IN THE CAFE' D'ORLEANS.

THIS coffee-house, situated in the new *Galerie d'Orléans*, in the *Palais Royal*, is one of the handsomest and most convenient in Paris.

To assist the "mind's eye" of the reader, during our description of a little scene which occurred recently in that place of resort, it may be as well to commence with a sketch of its general appearance.

There are four entrances to the *Café*,—two from the gallery, and two from the opposite arcade. The interior is very elegant; it is surrounded by large looking-glasses, and the panels are ornamented with great taste. The ceiling is divided into compartments of white and gold, from which several handsome chandeliers are suspended. The tables are of fine and highly polished marble, and in the centre of the saloon is a *poêle*, or stove, of a peculiarly novel form, and richly gilt. The *comptoir* is of superior mahogany, with gilt ornaments,—all in the best taste.

But the *Café d'Orléans* is rendered particularly agreeable by the obligingness of the master of the establishment,—the extreme civility and attention of the waiters,—the excellent supply of newspapers,—the good quality of the refreshments, and the moderate charges.

A glass of *eau-sucrée* is handed to you with as much alacrity and respect as an ice, or a *déjeune à-la-fourchette*;—you meet with the same politeness from the *dame du comptoir*, when you present to her a few *sous*, in payment for a slight repast, as though the bill amounted to several francs; and if one *sou* be dropped into the urn for the *garçon*, it is recognised as a suitable offering.

I occasionally go to the *Café d'Orléans*, to skim the French papers; read *Galvani's Messenger* all through, because its contents transport my imagination to my beloved country; pry into the *Moniteur*, to see whether there be any official communications, revelations, or refutations; stare the *Caricature* in the face, or dip into the literary journal called the *Cabinet de Lecture*.

Being there the other day, my attention was suddenly diverted from my newspaper, by some persons speaking English in loud tones. Raising my eyes, I perceived a lady and gentleman walking across the coffee-room.

"What a nice place!" said the lady.

"Isn't it handsome?" inquired the gentleman.

"It is indeed," replied the lady, looking all round the saloon.

Thus loudly praising the *Café*, and exciting the admiration of the *habitués*, they advanced towards a little round table, close to the door opposite to that by which they had entered, apparently with the intention of ordering some refreshment. No such thing:—out they popped, and at the same moment in marched the remainder of the party through the other door.

This division consisted of four persons,—namely, a male and female, of a certain age, extremely well dressed, and two young ladies; one of whom was very tall, and very slim, and distinguished by a profusion of light hair, falling in graceful ringlets down each side of her face. The other was a pretty, quiet-looking young gentlewoman, simply but elegantly attired.

The man expatiated loudly on the superiority of the *Café*.

"Observe the looking-glasses," said he.

"And the ceiling," added the lady.

"Beautiful! beautiful!" exclaimed the fair-haired lass.

The *dame du comptoir* rang her little bell, to call the attention of the waiters to the party. A *garçon* approached, napkin in hand, and made a movement to prepare seats at a handsome marble table. No notice was taken by the English visitors.

"It is really very elegant," roared the male—of a certain age.

"*Ma-ag-ni-fi-cent!*" rejoined his well-matched companion.

Upon this, the tall young lady shook her ambrosial locks, and pointing to the richly-gilt *poêle*, cried out, "What's that? what's that?"

The *garçon* gaily waved his *serviette* (napkin.) "*De l'orgeat?*" (sugared barley-water) *oui, madame, de suite*," said he, and was running off to fetch the refreshing beverage, when the leader of the party granted, "Well, shall we go?"

"Yes," squeaked his rib (I presume she was bone of his bone), and off they went by the opposite door.

The tall young lady kept her eyes fixed on the *poêle*—"What's that?" again she cried; but finding the seniors had decamped, she hastily followed their steps. As her companion, the gentle-looking young creature before mentioned, passed me, our eyes met—I think we felt alike—we were ashamed of our compatriots. She blushed, and retired in confusion. I imagine she must have been a poor relative, or a humble friend; but how much more dignified and amiable did she appear than her arrogant, selfish companions!—who, however, will pass for very *intelligent* people, and, on their return to England, will doubtless talk like oracles about Paris, its *cafés*, its institutions, and all its lions. The unassuming girl will, perhaps, never be asked for an opinion, and will be too modest to offer one.

After the departure of the intruders, I observed the waiters. They certainly appeared somewhat surprised, and waited a few seconds, as though they expected that the party would return: they then put the seats they had prepared into their places, ready for other guests; and one of them went up to the *comptoir*, and said something in a low tone of voice to the *dame*, who smiled—I will not say ironically, but significantly.

Is it surprising that the English are sometimes quizzed by the Parisians? No one can love and honour his country and his countrymen more than I do mine; and as to my fair *compatriotes*, they are, in my opinion, superior to any women in the world. Neither am I a panegyrist of the French, to the detriment of the English. I give our neighbours credit for the numerous good qualities they possess, but I am not blind either to the faults or the prejudices they too generally entertain on many points connected with England; which prejudices travel and impartial reading would tend to dispel. It is, however, deplorable to see how ridiculously a great number of English people conduct themselves when they are abroad. Too many of them seem to think that they may take all sorts of liberties with foreigners. Numbers of tourists return to their firesides, without having gained any knowledge whatever of the manners and customs they profess to come over to observe; and, above all, they often lose sight of that decency of demeanour towards strangers which they practise in their own country.

What, let me ask, would be the effect of behaviour such as I have described, in an English tavern, coffee-house, oyster-room, pastry-cook's, or other place of public entertainment? Why, the waiter would tell the *gentlefolks* that they were *no* gentlefolks,—and very properly so. It is much the fashion, too, to run down Old England, and to extol the superior and multifarious *agréments* of France. In Paris, many are apt to say, you can visit every public place without payment; whereas, in London, you are deprived of this advantage.

This observation is correct in many respects—not in all: but well may those who act as the male—of a certain age—and his inquisitive companions, dilate upon the exemption from charge, and the *facility* with which *all* places of public resort in Paris may be viewed!



## THE RICHES OF POVERTY.

ONE morning in the time of buds, of sunshine, and of showers,  
 I wandered in a field-path, edged with spring-time's earliest flowers;  
 I wandered mournfully, although the air was fresh and bright,  
 And the skylark poured his joyous song from a blue and cloudless height.  
 I wandered mournfully and slow, for I was very poor,  
 And the future only seemed to me a burden to endure.  
 I brooded o'er my poverty, and all the sorrows deep  
 That threatened those, for whom my life, a sacrifice, were cheap.  
 And I without the power to turn aside one woe—to calm  
 One anxious thought, or o'er one fear to pour hope's precious balm!  
 Should not this make the soul grow sad, the eye with tears o'erflow?  
 Mine did, with that most helpless grief none but the weak can know.  
 And the troubled stream of thought was full with many a grief, that still  
 Came gushing from that single fount, as from a cavern rill.  
 But as upon the night shines out "the poetry of heaven,"  
 So to the dark hour of the soul are starry visions given.  
 I thought if in my path should lie gold, meant for me alone—  
 That a departed one had traced the gift upon a stone—  
 If to my hand the power were given to change to metals rare,  
 And precious stones, the common ones that feel the common air;  
 If a most delicate fairy form, arising by the river,  
 Would at my feet a purse lay down, to be exhausted never!  
 What happiness, with wealth like this, what bliss I could bestow  
 On those my heart was aching for, and many a child of woe!  
 And my spirit so intensely dwelt upon these shadows wild,  
 That I almost prayed my God would give their substance to his child.  
 Like oil upon the waves, that Name on my troubled heart came down,  
 And I looked above to His own blue sky to deprecate His frown.  
 And a voice, unheard before, awoke the echoes of my heart,  
 Bidding its former fantasies, like sprites unblest, depart;  
 Then pleading in its silent halls with low and sensive tone,  
 I listened with a reverent ear, as from an altar-stone.

"Yes, thou art poor, no gold hast thou to canker o'er thy soul,  
 No power to gain one single thing that riches can control.  
 From day to day thy means of life with Providence are hid,  
 And He who feeds the ravens doth almost thy food forbid.  
 Yes, thou art poor; but who is He that bids thee call on Him  
 As Father? are not worlds His own to which thy world is dim?  
 And is not all the wealth of this His own to take and give?  
 If it were good for thee, would He without it let thee live?  
 And those for whom thy heart is sore, does not His word declare  
 He binds the broken heart, He makes the weary one his care?  
 Some through a long and subtle chain of causes trace the hand  
 That gives them all, but daily thou dost 'neath its pressure stand!  
 Some to a human lord must bow, on whom their fortunes rest,  
 With the dark shadow of whose mind their own may be oppress!  
 But He on whom the desolate and poor may call alone,  
 Reflects light, peace, and purity, and wisdom, from His throne.  
 And art thou then so destitute? has He all wealth denied?  
 Oh! there are sources whence it flows, a free and boundless tide!  
 Look forth on the creation with the eye that He has given,  
 And bless Him who bestows unbought the noblest gifts of heaven.  
 The fresh pure air its thousand choirs, the incense-breathing flowers  
 That steal up silently and bright amid their turfy bowers;  
 The wooded vale, the winding stream, in whose clear depth there lies,  
 Distinctly dim, like the fabled past, a shadowy world and skies.  
 And all earth's varied loveliness harmoniously combined  
 That gives the inmost heart a sense of gladness undefined.  
 And is it nothing then to feel and know a joy like this?  
 In Nature's mirror still to see her Maker's blessedness?  
 In all His Providence ordains a Father's hand to feel,  
 And in His word a Saviour God its promises to seal?  
 And art thou then so destitute—are riches only gold?  
 Does there not dwell within the heart a mine of wealth untold?  
 A wealth from whose most lavish use but comes increase of store,  
 Which Death gives immortality, and Time an added power.  
 A power that in the desert sands, or the ice-girdled north,  
 Is gentle, pure, and glad, as in the Eden bowers of earth;  
 A light before whose lustre mild the heart's dark spectres fly,  
 Walking up bliss and beauty like its emblem in the sky.  
 'Tis Love—the angel of the world—the element of Heaven,  
 In which the image of our God was to his creatures given.  
 Love—but not him, Earth's pilgrim-boy, whose feet the dust must tread,  
 To fling a fleeting halo round one vision-gifted head:  
 But him the pure and heavenly one, whose bright unchanging wing,  
 Though cradled at the shrine of home, veils each created thing,  
 Shedding its own sweet lustre over earth's most dark and sad,  
 The spirit of a blessed fount, that makes all nature glad;  
 A spring, with whose immortal flow the joys of Heaven begin,  
 A presage of the happiness itself hath power to win.  
 And often in the poor man's heart its treasures brightly dwell,  
 Leaving the worldly prosperous one a dark and gloomy cell.  
 No wealth?—the very power to love were wealth enough alone  
 To overmatch the value of the proud world's every throne!  
 But wouldst thou ask a gift of God to make thy cup o'erbrim,  
 Pray that thy heart's best treasure might be lavished upon him;

Shalt not its free abundance—as rivers to the sea  
 Its utmost flood can never fill that bright immensity.  
 Oh! praise Him, that He is so good, so merciful, so just,  
 That we may pour on Him the heart's most perfect love and trust.  
 A love, that in this world gives peace that none can take away,  
 And 'mid the wreck of worlds shall stand a wealth without decay!"

I went home wiser for the time, and happier for the hour;—  
 Oh! that the mists of earth should cloud such thoughts of truth and power

## LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS OF THE METROPOLIS.

## LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.

IN the year 1796, an institution was founded in Glasgow by the will of Professor Anderson, for the purpose of instructing, in scientific subjects, the middle and working classes. No department of this establishment was, however, exclusively set apart for the instruction of mechanics in those branches of knowledge of especial use in their daily avocations, until the year 1800, when Dr. George Birkbeck commenced delivering a series of lectures on mechanics and chemistry. During the period since these lectures were first delivered, the advantages of the scheme were unequivocally demonstrated, and similar courses of instruction were established in several other cities of the empire. In 1823, in consequence of some disagreement between the mechanics and the trustees of the institution, the former seceded, and formed an establishment of their own, called the "Glasgow Mechanics' Institution." The knowledge of this fact, combined with the reflection that if Glasgow could maintain such an establishment, so also ought the metropolis, attracted the attention of the conductors of the Mechanics' Magazine. Accordingly, on the 11th of October, 1823, they proposed the formation of a "London Mechanics' Institution." One of the first individuals that responded to the invitation was the same gentleman who, twenty-three years previously, opened the temple of science to the artisan—Dr. Birkbeck: and to him, in conjunction with several other public-spirited men, is the institution mainly indebted for its successful foundation. On the 11th November, the first public meeting was held at the Crown and Anchor tavern, and at the election of officers, the doctor was unanimously chosen as President, in which situation he has ever since zealously devoted himself to the promotion of its welfare. It was not until the 20th February, 1824, that the institution fairly commenced operations. On the evening of that day the members assembled in Dr. Lindley's chapel, Moorfields, to hear the President's inaugural address, and an introductory lecture, by Professor Millington, on the elementary principles of mechanical science. The increasing wants of the members rendering more ample accommodation necessary, extensive premises were subsequently procured for the permanent seat of the institution. They are situated in one of the most central parts of the metropolis—29, Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, midway between the great leading thoroughfares of Holborn and Fleet-street.

A spacious lecture-room and other suitable apartments for the library and apparatus were erected. The expenses incurred were defrayed by means of subscriptions, assisted by a loan from the worthy President. As the resources of the institution are mainly absorbed in meeting its annual charges, the whole of this loan has not yet been repaid; it is, however, in a gradual course of liquidation.

Since the establishment of the institution, two evenings in every week (Wednesday and Friday) have been appropriated to the delivery of lectures on various subjects, literary as well as scientific. There is, in the opinion of many old members, much room for improvement both in the selection and arrangement of the subjects.

With regard to the selection, it has been stated, that if great variety was not permitted, the number of members attending the lectures would be considerably diminished. When a lecture on "Music, with *numerous* illustrations," is to be delivered, the theatre, which can contain within its walls a thousand persons, is usually filled to overflowing. On the contrary, when the subject is one of those sciences not so attractive in its nature, but, nevertheless, of great interest and importance, the attendance, although good, is comparatively small. We mention this fact, not because we are averse to the cultivation of that which "softens men's manners and suffers them not to become brutal," but as showing in a striking manner what is and what is not "popular." These remarks are not confined to this institution alone, but are, we believe, applicable to all establishments of similar, and, indeed, of much higher, pretensions.

The classes are the most efficient means yet devised to carry out the objects of the institution. They pursue their studies the whole year, meeting generally from about half-past eight till ten in the evening. The teachers are men of acknowledged ability, and the manner in which their tuition is imparted, renders it possible for any one really willing to learn, to acquire the information of which he is in need. We cannot withhold our strong approbation of the conduct of these gentlemen, and especially those whose services are gratuitous. We subjoin a list of the subjects of study in the various classes:—

English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Mathematics, Practical Geometry, Drawing,—architectural, mechanical, perspective, and ornamental—Drawing the human figure, Modelling, Landscape drawing, Geography, Short-hand, French language, Latin language.

Besides the above, the following are conducted on the plan of mutual instruction:—Literary Composition, Chemistry, Experimental Philosophy, Natural History, Phrenology, Latin language.

There is also a class for French conversation, and several for the various branches of vocal and instrumental Music, for admittance to which an additional subscription is required. Concerts are

occasionally given in the theatre, the performers consisting chiefly of the members of the Music class.

The library, consisting of 7000 volumes, is composed of works in every branch of science and literature. If we may judge from the appearance of the books, there are pretty good indications of their being *used*, and sometimes not quite so well as they deserve to be. We wonder some bibliophile is not engaged to deliver a lecture on the question—"How ought books to be taken care of?" We rather think that the sum expended on such a lecture would not be thrown away, as the next bookbinder's bill would satisfactorily prove. The library is also amply supplied with the new reviews and magazines. The reading-room is well attended, especially in the evening. It is furnished with the morning and evening newspapers, which are removed to the news-room when the reading-room becomes crowded. Indiscriminate admission to the library is not allowed. Any person wanting a work for perusal on the premises is obliged to leave his ticket with the librarian until the book be returned.

A very good collection of specimens, illustrative of the sciences of Geology, Mineralogy, &c., will be found in the museum; also apparatus requisite for illustrating the mechanical and chemical sciences, &c.

The subscription to the institution is 6s. per quarter, with 2s. 6d. entrance. Youths under eighteen years of age (students) pay the same subscription and have equal privileges with members, except voting at the election of officers. Members' sons and apprentices may attend the classes or lectures at 3s. per quarter. Ladies are admitted to the lectures and the use of the circulating library, at 5s. per quarter, or the lectures only at 3s. The number of persons belonging to the institution was, on the 5th of June, 1839, as follows:—

883 Members.
174 Students.
13 Members' sons and Apprentices.
11 Ladies.

Making a total of 1081.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME



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